

Planning, Zoning, and Housing Committee (PZ&H)
of the
Representative Town Meeting (RTM)
Minutes

March, 5, 2012

In attendance: John van der Kieft, Joanne Hennessy, Bob Kernan, Rob Young, Steve Olvany, Marty Magida, Ted Hawkins, Lucy Fiore, Shedd Glassmeyer, Marilu Cleary, Carolyn Bayne

Absent: Liz Bacon, Diane Conologue, Dana Fead

Meeting called to order at approximately 7:35 PM by John van der Kieft Committee chair. With 11 members present a quorum was met.

Mr van der Kieft introduced Bob Kernan, a new member of the committee joining from District 1.

At this meeting we were joined by Jeremy Ginsberg Planning and Zoning Director along with Fred Conze, Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss the proposed Mr Ginsberg explained the reason for the 420.8 Percent increase in the budget for advertising. Mr. Ginsberg stated that in the past, P&Z has been billed incorrectly by The Darien News. Going forward, P&Z will be billed correctly. Mr. Ginsberg stated that the Darien News was not making the town pay retroactively. Mr. Conze went on to discuss the increase of legal fees due to the numerous lawsuits the Town is currently facing. The Committee voted to Approve the budget. 11 for 0 against .

Mr Conze made a lengthy presentation on the future of Fairfield County and its local governments. Southwestern Regional Planning Association (SWRPA) could be converted to a Council of Government (COG). Our First Selectman automatically becomes a member of the COG as well as the head of Planning and Zoning. Mr Conze believes that this form of government will not work for Darien, as the COG is supposed to reduce the reliance on property taxes by converting and redeveloping properties into mix use. Mr Conze states that Darien is fully developed and we would need to change so much of our infrastructure to be able to comply with the rest of the towns in the COG. Mr. Young has agreed to monitor this situation and serve as point man for the Committee .

Joanne Hennessy gave an update on the Flood, Erosion Control Board. Currently the EPC runs this and the EPC wants to separate out the flood and erosion control portion of the EPC's responsibilities. Mrs Hennessy believes that an Advisory Committee instead of a Board would be advisable. Creating a separate board is off the table at this time. Mrs. Armour has sent the proposal back to the First Selectman and is waiting for a response.

In other business, it was recommended that a member of our committee monitor both the Allen O'Neill development and the shuffle progress. Joanne Hennessy has already been attending the DHA meetings and will continue to do so. The shuffle will be monitored by John van der Kieft.

Joanne Hennessy and John van der Kieft will not be available for the March 19, 2012 RTM meeting. Mr van der Kieft proposed Robert Young to be the Chairman elect for the meeting. The committee voted 11-0 in favor of Mr Young acting as Chairman Elect.

Submitted by Lucy Fiore, Clerk PZ&H Committee RTM